

A RESOLUTION to honor Ms. Cherry Jones upon her theatrical accomplishments.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to recognize those native Tennesseans who, in utilizing their great talents and abilities, have gained prominence and fame and have become credits to their profession; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Jones is one such outstanding person who has been receiving rave reviews and accolades for more than a decade for her off-Broadway and regional theater performances and more recently for her five Broadway performances which have garnered her two Tony Award nominations; and

WHEREAS, a native of Paris, Tennessee, Ms. Jones is the daughter of proud parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones and sister of Susan Jones Herbison; she is a 1974 graduate of Paris-Henry County High School and a distinguished graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones embarked upon her exceptional career on the stage soon after graduation and quickly earned distinction for her off-Broadway and regional performances, including notable credits in Boston where she won the Boston Theater Critics Circle Award for best actress in a dramatic production during the 1984-1985 season; and

WHEREAS, this lauded actress's popularity increased greatly during her tenure as a member of Robert Brustein's American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, where she earned respect as "an actor's actor" and worked with famous directors in Shakespearean plays and works by Chekov; and

WHEREAS, ever increasing in popularity as a performer, Cherry Jones was nominated for a Tony Award and won an Obie Award for her performance in "Our Country's Good" and was given another nomination for her role in "The Baltimore Waltz"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones next made her move to Broadway, appearing in “Angels in America”, “Macbeth” and “Stepping Out”; her abilities were appropriately recognized as she was most recently cast in the title role of the Lincoln Center Theater production “The Heiress”; and

WHEREAS, as Catherine Sloper in “the Heiress”, she is touted as “one of Broadway’s best actresses”; renowned theater critics herald her as a “midtown treasure” and “extraordinary star”, stating that “her long-shining awesome talent should finally be obvious” and “she is worth seeing all by herself”; and

WHEREAS, this adulation of Cherry Jones does not end with the critics; for her performance, she has been nominated for a Tony Award for “Best Actress in a Play”; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was also the recent recipient of the New York Drama League’s coveted “Outstanding Performance Award”, the Outer Critics Circle “Best Actress” award, and the New York Drama Desk Award for “Best Actress in a Play”; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should honor and congratulate this outstanding actress and fine Tennessean, whose list of accomplishments are nothing less than extraordinary; as elected representatives of the state of Tennessee we also wish to thank Cherry Jones for the recognition she brings to our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Cherry Jones for her incredible success as a Broadway actress, especially for her most recent Tony Award nomination, and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.